

meters tall. Unlike the lowland species which usually can be found growing in patches.

The next morning, we drove to Genting Highlands. It is the most developed mountain resort in Pahang. It boasts of 4 - 5 star hotels with a casino, theme park and artificial lake for boating and a country club complete with an 18 hole golf course.

Here again, we managed to locate only *N. sanguinea*. They can be found growing on hill slopes and road embankments leading to the casino. The biggest patch of sanguineas we found was a 150 meters stretch of wet hill slope and some parts were even waterlogged. There was a plant which resembles gracillima by the leaves structure. As there were no pitchers so we could not really confirm it. The largest sanguinea's lower pitcher spotted was about 30 cm high and 6 cm across on the peristome. A comparison with my size 9 shoe is shown in the attached photograph.

After lunch, it was a 5 hours drive back to Singapore from Genting Highlands. From the field trip to the highlands, I would say that *N. sanguineas* is the most common of the West Malaysian highland species. Hopefully, we would venture to the other mountains for the other two highland species in the near future.

An addition to Adrian Slack's Comment on *Nepenthes burbridgeae* (Improbable) Cuttings

by

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Warning: This report has no scientific value whatsoever!

Ever since I was a teenager, my interest in carnivorous plants has been quite great. Accordingly, the first book I could get hold of was the French version of Adrian Slack's "Les Plantes Carnivores" ("Insect-Eating Plants and How to Grow Them"), translated into French in 1988. I have never had any direct news from Adrian and all I have heard about him since that time is that he has been suffering from severe illness.

Obviously, when one is a kid and has wild fancies on any subject, the one I was most interested in was *Nepenthes burbridgeae*. Why that one? Because Adrian wrote: "Quant à *N. burbridgeae* sa réussite est si improbable [as a cutting] qu'il vaut mieux y renoncer (...)". Why more difficult to root it than other species? Far from being a scientist, I kept wondering about *Nepenthes*' inequalities in the field of rooting, as well as social inequalities...

So as years went by, I kept enlarging my *Nepenthes* collection thanks to German, American and Australian friends, who either gave, sold and swapped plants/seedlings/seeds with me. So, also let this report be an indirect way of thanking them on that account.

Back to Adrian Slack, The ideal challenge I have always kept in mind was to root a cutting of *Nepenthes burbridgeae*. Maybe some people have succeeded in rooting that species before me, but I have never found anything in literature about that specific topic so far. Why do not people share their experience on such terribly endangered species? In addition, I have never heard about anybody having obtained seed of that species. So let us keep it alive!

Last Autumn, a German friend of mine very kindly gave me an unrooted cutting of that species with three nodes on it. He told me it was easy work to root it (had he tried before? I didn't bother to ask him!), and ingenuously I tried so...

Since I had already made several attempts to make cuttings of many species before (with rather uneven success), I was a bit doubtful as to how that small stem with

few leaves would infirm Adrian Slack's lines on that species, asserting it was probably easier to try to aerial-layer it.

Technically speaking, I first put the cut part of the stem into fungicide for approximately 5 minutes, then, after drying it, I put it into rooting-hormone preparation made by a German friend.

I followed the excellent advice of a Californian friend of mine who urged me to give the cutting 24 hours a day of artificial light. With 2 Triton tubes of (THORN EMI plc) 20 centimeters from the cutting, the *N. burbridgeae* needed approximately two months to develop tiny roots which, five months after I put the plant into a regular compost (1/5 fine-chopped bark, 1/5 quartz-sand 5 mm in diameter, 3/3 German peat), has grown 5 cm long roots. However, for economical reasons (Swiss electricity, as everything over here, being awfully expensive!), I only gave the cutting 20 hours of light daily. The plant is in an aquarium 40x15cm large and 30 cm high. There is water in the bottom (approx. 5 cm.) and the pot holding the cutting stands on an upside-down pot. Daily temperature is about 25°C and night 10-18°C. The aquarium is set on a north-west windowsill, slightly open at night, and is covered with a 3 mm thick piece of glass. The electric tubes "rest" on the whole thing. I spray the inside of the aquarium twice a day and the plant now looks good, even if it is a bit sun-burnt. Quite normal with one-metre thick snow refleton from outside!!!

In conclusion, I shall state that the season when one makes a cutting apparently does not matter, as long as one has artificial light and can regulate temperature and humidity. Since I have absolutely no knowledge of botany, biology or any scientific background, what I would like to point out is that growing and reproducing such an apparently difficult plant as *Nepenthes burbridgeae* is possible for any ignorant, provided (s)he has the right conditions.

Adrian, wherever you are and whatever you are doing at the moment, thanks a lot for letting your passion get in!

DROSERA

by

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After you have been growing CP for many years, you begin to have a certain liking for one set of plants over another. I confess that I find myself liking to grow and observe certain *Drosera* more than others.

First, I like a plant that grows rapidly and large, grows in my conditions all year without going into serious dormancy and is easy to take care of in any weather condition throughout the year. I also like a plant that doesn't need repotting very often, that puts out a beautiful set of flowers that are large and colorful. Minimum care and good results are two qualities that attract my attention to my favorite species *Drosera regia*.

I obtained this plant which I got from California Carnivores several years ago growing in a six-inch(15 cm) pot in living sphagnum moss. The plant sits in an inch(2.5 cm) of water throughout the growing season and seems to like the moisture provided. of this *Drosera* is now about 0.5 inch(1.2 cm) in diameter and about 2 inches(5 cm) tall where the giant leaves emerge from the growing point. A couple of thick roots emerge from this stem to support the plant upright and arch into the sphagnum moss. These roots are 0.25 inch (6 mm) thick and are black in color except for the tip which is pale yellow! The strap-shaped leaves in the summer grow to a length of 18-22 inches(45cm-55cm) long and it is a beautiful sight to see about 15 of these leaves arch over the plant with the tips falling over the sides of the pot. In the early morning the tentacles tips